1: Meek E, G-5 (1925-1930) 1931
FF38 Katab FF38

accompanying photograph. The Katab do not, like the Kare-kare, etc., in the north, bury their grain as a normal proceeding, but in bygone days if they expected to be raided they concealed their grain in decanter-shaped pits somewhat resembling the graves in which they bury their dead. These pits were dried with wood fires, and the narrow mouth was blocked with a stone which was plastered over with mud.

Apart from agriculture the Katab have few means of adding to their income. For their pottery they are dependent on their Ataka neighbours. There is no weaving or dyeing of cloth. Their baskets are woven by women from the ribs of palm branches, and the women also fashion the *oyam* or tray-shaped adornment worn on the buttocks. (It is made of palm fronds, the "stalk" being a piece of bamboo.) The waterproof capes and coverings for the women's loads are, however, woven by the men (from palm fronds). There is a certain amount of petty trade carried on by the women on their own or their husband's behalf. It takes the form of the sale of excess supplies of millet and other crops, of firewood, and of the beans which every married woman grows on her own account. With the proceeds of the sale of her beans a Katab woman usually adds to the number of her goats.

During the dry season the men engage in hunting drives with their Kaje, Chawai, and Morwa neighbours. Of big game there is none, but the smaller antelopes are still to be found. Hares, jerboa, iguana, rats, field-mice, etc., are also sought, and the Katab employ dogs to assist them in the chase. The usual rule applies that the man whose arrow first entered the animal, however slightly, is entitled to the quarry. Disputes frequently arise on this matter, but every man knows his own arrow, either by the length of the shaft, or binding, or by the fact that he had removed one of the ears of the arrow-head or had cut private marks on the shaft. Custom requires a successful hunter to hand over at once to the priest of the kindred any of the smaller game, but he receives back a larger share than anyone else; in the case of the larger game he is entitled to help himself before giving anything to the priest. It may be added that in former times the hunting battues were sometimes made the occasion for shooting a rival, especially the abductor of one's wife. There are also fishing battues, traps and nets being

co-operative society, the women's friendly societies of the senior mission of the district, and the beer-brewing groups among pagan women, though in what respects the last is a new development is not stated.

Land Tenure: Cole states that "breakdown to individual tenure" has proceeded—by implication since Administration—even further among Kagoro than among Katab, a conclusion difficult to defend. In fact, the number of adult males per compound (1.6) is smaller than among Katab proper,[80] but it is not clear that this situation is entirely new. Cole notes that in pre-British times it was customary for a clan, lineage or domestic unit "to farm lands in several widely dispersed areas and not in one compact bloc." It would not be surprising if, under these circumstances, the size of the domestic unit had decreased[81] since Administration, but the facts are virtually impossible to establish on the basis of available information, and Cole himself states that the figure for adult males per compound has remained stationary as far back as the records show it (to 1939 only). More important, it would appear that land is normally as much clan property as ever, but, that where clan rights over land have been curtailed in any respect, it is the power of the civil heads, both in the Village-areas and in the District, not the power of the individual, that has grown correspondingly.

It is noteworthy, however, that traditionally the marshlands of Kagoro Independent District were, as Smith observes, *res nullius*, and remained so until 1946. Coco yam and *tumuku* (Hausa) were until that time the main crops, but the introduction of rice in 1941 and its development as a cash crop has given marsh plots a new significance. It was said in 1950 that all marshland was under cultivation. Marsh plots and the crops grown on them are individually owned, but as no case of inheritance has come before the courts, it cannot be said definitely what rights, if any, over marsh plots may accrue to lineages and clans in time.

Miscellaneous: Pig-rearing is an important activity, said to have been introduced a generation ago largely as a result of the efforts of the senior mission in the area, and is approached only by rice-growing as a source of income to the District. Wages may be earned by men in the employ of the missions, the railway, the mining companies in the general area, the army, and the Native Authority.

The principle expenditures of cash, according to Smith, are for meat, most household utensils and metal goods, salt, kerosene, soap, and clothing;[82] to this list tax may be added. Pots are generally bought direct from Ataka potters of Moroa District; for the remainder of the goods listed Kagoro depend on the trading community in the District.

Crafts in the District seem to be limited to basketry, including the manufacture of the *oyam*, by women; house-building, mat-making, and a little woodwork (most notably the woman's headboard) by men.[83]

Regarding "the traditional economy" in general, Smith concludes that no great changes have as yet taken place.

The Life Cycle

Birth

Tremearne reports that among Kagoro there is no "festivity" at the birth of a child, but that a gift is presented to the mother's father, "otherwise the grandfather owns" the child. Apart from these, Tremearne apparently found it impossible to make generalizations: of various accounts which he received he reports only one, that some Kagoro burn the umbilical cord when it is dropped, the ashes are mixed with grease and "rubbed on the child's head to harden it." According to

[80] Cf. discussion of Kagoro domestic unit, pp. 91–2 above.

[81] Cf. contrasting materials produced by Cole from among Jaba of Kwoi (Jaba Independent District), and Jaba of Kachia District, cited below.

[82] Cloth is more common to-day than formerly, but in general Kagoro conform to traditional standards in dress, and the Ankwei ban on cloth at ritual performances appears still to hold.

[83] In this connection Smith notes: "European-type carpentry providing domestic furniture has been assimilated by Kagoro."